

Consolidated  
Edition  
Torrance Herald  
and Lomita News

# Torrance Herald

Three  
Sections  
14 Pages  
This Issue

EIGHTEENTH YEAR—No. 11

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1932

SECTION A

5c PER COPY

## CHAIRMAN OF FREEHOLDERS ISSUES DEFI TO KLUSMAN

Rippy Throws Down the Gauntlet to Charter Opponent to Meet Him in Joint Debate on Civic Proposition

Judge Charles T. Rippy, chairman of the board of freeholders, has flung down the gauntlet to the opponents of the proposed city charter.

Judge Rippy's deft is expressed in a personal letter addressed to William T. Klusman, who has publicly declared himself to be opposed to the adoption of the charter. A copy of his letter, which was mailed to Mr. Klusman on March 15, is printed in this issue of the Torrance Herald.

In issuing his challenge to Klusman, Mr. Rippy makes two propositions. First, that he will meet in public joint

### Rippy Issues Challenge

March 15, 1932.

Mr. W. T. Klusman,  
Torrance, California.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your public declaration that you are opposed to the proposed Torrance Charter:

Undersigned hereby challenges you, or you and any other resident of Torrance, to be opposed by myself, or by myself and any other resident of Torrance, to a joint debate upon the proposed Torrance Charter, to be held at any time or place in Torrance agreed upon, you or your speaker to determine whether you wish to speak first or otherwise.

Unless this challenge is accepted within five days from date, I will conclude that you do not wish to accept the challenge.

Yours truly,

CHAS. T. RIPPY.

debate Mr. Klusman, or any other resident of Torrance who is opposed to the adoption of the charter; or, second, he and one other resident who favors the adoption, will meet Mr. Klusman and one other resident opposing the adoption. In other words, Mr. Rippy offers to take on Mr. Klusman or any representative whom Klusman may approve, singly, or the debate may be made a foursome, each principal to choose his own assistant.

Time and place are to be agreed upon, but it will be left to Mr. Klusman, or to Mr. Klusman and his aide, to choose whether he wishes to open the debate.

March 20 is the final date on which the challenge may be accepted. If no reply is forthcoming before that time Mr. Rippy says he will assume that the proposal has not been found acceptable.

## THE SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THE CHARTER

By HERBERT S. WOOD

The school teachers of the Torrance schools have been accused in the newspaper and elsewhere of having a narrow-minded attitude toward the charter and of considering only their own positions without regard to the important matter of city government and general welfare of the community. This statement is obviously untrue since the teaching profession is, by the very nature of its work, one of service to the public and the community. No group of people in any community is more public-minded or better versed in civic affairs than the school people.

The teachers of Torrance are opposed to the charter for a number of reasons, some personal, some strictly professional. The general attitude of school people was expressed by Mr. Archie Cliff, county superintendent, of Torrance, when he recently appeared before a group of Torrance people and spoke on the charter. His basis for approval or disapproval of changes in school districts was educational and not economic. In other words, would the schools benefit by the change or not. He felt that no benefit could be secured by a separation from the Los Angeles system which was not already being enjoyed.

The present arrangement by which Torrance schools are a part of the Los Angeles system gives the community educational advantages second to none anywhere, with some features not possible at even much greater cost in a small district. There is now available the services of 22 special departments employing trained experts which add tremendously to the educational efficiency of the system. A few of these departments whose advice and services are now being enjoyed by Torrance scholars are psychology, curriculum study, health and physical education, speech correction, research, visual education, vocational education and other supervisory and assisting services. Some of the services thus

available would be impossible of duplication in a small system, thus reducing the quality of educational advantages to the students.

The superintendent, his assistants, and the board of education are all men and women of high standards and experience, altogether a superior group. The management of a school district is an extremely complicated and difficult task, requiring board members and technical officers with experience and vision.

There are plenty of capable, experienced men available for the office of superintendent of schools, but there are few if any men or women of the board of education who have had experience in handling the affairs of a school system.

There are good teachers available to any district, large or small, especially just now, but in normal times, the Los Angeles city system has access to the choice teachers from all over the United States and it is conceded that a far better trained and more experienced list of candidates is available under the present arrangement than would a separate system. This would still be true even if a higher salary schedule were put in effect in Torrance. School teachers from everywhere flock to Los Angeles, but only the best are able to pass the examination and secure positions.

TURN TO STORY 1

## Mediumologist Exposes Tricks of Charlatans

Renowned Psychologist and Entertainer Gives Unique Show at Kiwanis Meet

More than 60 guests and members of the Kiwanis Club were mystified, entertained and enlightened, at the dinner meeting held at Earl's Cafe Monday evening, when Professor Jasch, renowned psychologist and mediumologist, put on an hour's program. "Spirit" writing, table levitation, thought reading and similar examples of so-called supernatural forces were part of the entertainment, intermingled with sound advice to the audience not to be misled by the pretenses of money-making charlatans who claim to possess these powers and by trickery seen to use them for their own profit or sinister purposes.

Questions asked by members of the audience were answered, and many other examples of mediumistic technique were offered.

When it came to the table-tipping episode, everyone present was completely mystified to see a 200-pound table, around which 16 persons were seated, each with hands pressing down on the top to keep it firmly on the floor, apparently obey the command of the professor and rise up, move forward and back, and finally sink down again on its four legs.

Henry F. Ubricht, leader of the Kiwanis, and Earl Conner claim to be "in the know" regarding this light-minded action on the part of the table, but their explanations are scoffed at by the other 55 persons present who declare the table seemed to lose all connection with the principle of gravity and float in the air as if it had neither weight nor connection with the ground.

## N.B.P.W. Enjoys Fine Program

Charles J. Colden, former city councilman and port commissioner of San Pedro, entertained the members of the National Business and Professional Women of Torrance at their dinner meeting at Earl's Cafe Tuesday evening, with a descriptive account of his observations on a recent trip around the world. Mr. Colden took for his theme, "Women and Children of the World," and called attention to some of the startling contrasts existing in the conditions under which women live in the various countries.

Mr. Colden's trip took him through the Orient, the Pacific Islands, Europe, England and other foreign lands, and his observations of life and customs were deeply interesting, strange, pathetic and humorous as he discussed the incidents of travel which had impressed themselves upon his mind.

Other entertainment greatly appreciated by the club members included two readings by Eileen Maskrey, talented little dramatic star, and solos by Talmadge Ulrich, boy pianist, who played three numbers, one of them, his own composition, called "Depression Blues."

## Frank Mineck Buys Out Bicycle Shop

Frank W. Mineck, 1419 Beech street, has purchased the business and stock of C. E. Briney, owner of the Torrance Bicycle Shop, located at 1341 El Prado. The deal was closed this week and Mr. Mineck took over the business on Monday.

The new proprietor has been a resident of Torrance for several years, and until two years ago was employed at the National Supply Company, Union Tool division. He is an expert mechanic with many years of experience to draw from.

Mr. Briney, the outgoing proprietor, has not announced any plans for the immediate future.

## Students Prepare For Annual Contest

Members of the English classes at the Torrance high school are preparing essays for entry in the annual oratorical contest based on the Constitution of the United States.

TURN TO STORY 1

## SPRING MODES DISPLAYED AT FASHION SHOW

Members of Legion Auxiliary Invite Attendance at Interesting Style Event

That fashions and their creation are affected largely by historical events is evidenced this year of the Washington Bicentennial in the new spring models to be displayed at the American Legion club house in conjunction with a bridge luncheon to be given by the



MISS EDITH MOTT

American Legion Auxiliary, Wednesday, March 23, at 12:30. Members of the Auxiliary and their friends will then have an opportunity to enjoy a fashion review conducted by the J. C. Penney Company, with Miss Edith Mott, New York stylist, as director.

Miss Mott, noted as a fashion designer, will give a talk illustrating the military influence exercised this season.

Included in the showing will be street dresses with semi-tailored, almost mannish lines, with broad shoulders accentuating slowness, higher waist lines. The choice of rough silks and tweed prints, for these dresses is also significant.

Color combinations, featuring

TURN TO STORY 3

Page 5

## Boys' Band to Play On Sunday For Men's Class

Attendance at Local Bible Study Group Is Increasing, Says Morris

"Attendance at the meetings of the Torrance Men's Bible Class, which assembles every Sunday morning at the Torrance Theatre auditorium, is steadily increasing," says G. L. Morris, who is one of the leaders of this community organization. "Whether this is due to Torrance men's desire to outdo Los Angeles, with whose Bible class we are carrying on a membership contest, or the prospect of a free ticket to the big barbecue that will be held on April 8, is not quite clear, but at any rate there are a number of new faces at each Sunday morning meeting, and a number of former attendants are coming back," he continued.

A big feature of next Sunday morning's meeting will be the program given by the Harbor District Boys' Band, of 75 pieces, under the leadership of C. H. Cleaveland. This band is rated as one of the best of its kind in Southern California, and all members of the Bible class are looking forward to a very high class entertainment in connection with their regular program.

All men in Torrance, whether they have church affiliations or not, are eligible to membership in the Bible class. Meetings are held at 9:30 a. m. Sunday morning at the Torrance theatre, and just now when the battle with Los Angeles is at its height, Torrance leaders of the organization would like to see every man in the community turn out to the next meeting. Every man who registers will be entitled to free tickets for himself and family to the big barbecue when a good time and lots of cats are promised. No tickets to this affair will be sold. The only way they can be obtained is by attendance at the Bible class on Sunday morning.

## Palm Sunday to Usher In Week of Devotions

Holy Week services at the Church of the Nativity will begin with the blessing of the palms on Palm Sunday, March 20, at the high mass at 9:45.

On Wednesday, at 7:30 p. m., the usual Lenten devotions will be held.

On Holy Thursday, high mass and procession will be held at 10 a. m., with rosary and sermon in the evening.

Devotions will begin on Good Friday at 7:30 a. m., with the Adoration of the Cross, Profession and Mass of the Presanctified, followed in the evening at 7:30 by the Passion sermon and Stations of the Cross.

Ceremonies of blessing of the baptismal font and paschal candle will begin at 7 o'clock in the morning on Holy Saturday, followed by mass at 8 o'clock.

On Easter Sunday, high mass will be sung at 7:30 with low mass at 9:45 a. m.

## COUNCIL RACE GROWS HOTTER IN TORRANCE

Spurlin and Wilkes Make 11 Possible Candidates; Klusman Files

Two new applicants for seats on the city council were reported last week, bringing the total to 11 possible candidates to fill the four vacancies to be voted upon at the April 11 election.

DeKalb Spurlin, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and owner of extensive rental property in this city, informed the Herald this week that his petition, had been circulated and was ready to file. Spurlin declined to state definitely when he would file his petition or whether he would run for one of the four-year terms or for the unexpired term of Ex-councilman Nelson.

Wilkes in Race

A petition is also being circulated for Thomas J. Wilkes, an employee of the Pacific Electric shops, according to reliable reports. Others in the councilmanic race include: Mayor Dennis, Councilman R. B. Smith, Councilman Carleton B. Bell, Earl Conner, Scott Ludlow, R. V. Roelofs, M. F. Cameron, W. T. Klusman and J. M. Wright. To date, Klusman is the only candidate to file a petition with the city clerk. Klusman filed his petition for a four-year term this week, according to City Clerk Bartlett.

Three councilmen for four-year terms and one councilman for the unexpired term of E. C. Nelson, resigned, are to be elected, according to Bartlett. Information given out late last week at the City Hall that there were two long and two short term vacancies was in error, according to the City Clerk.

Klusman Ticket

So far the only "tickets" in the field of 11 possible candidates is the one chosen by Klusman sympathizers Tuesday night when they are reported to have met in a residence. According to reports, the four candidates to be backed by Klusmanites are Bill Klusman, himself, J. M. Wright, Thomas Wilkes and Scott Ludlow, although Ludlow, it is stated, was not consulted prior to the "endorsement."

Attempts at grouping the remaining seven candidates are being made by their supporters and it is possible that all of them will file their petitions, according to those active in local political circles. However, it is certain that there will be ample competition to assure an interesting race.

Next Tuesday, March 22, at noon, is the final hour for filing petitions. After Tuesday, the ballot lines will be definitely drawn, and one of the most interesting races in local political history will begin in earnest.

## Two Are Winners In Grocery Award

Two Torrance residents were included last week in the list of 150 winners in the \$150 grocery award conducted weekly by the Continental Grocery Co. George L. Probert, 1735 Andrea, and Mrs. Elizabeth Drake, 1929 Cota avenue, were the fortunate individuals.

## Boy Minstrels Delight Crowd On Dads' Night

Fine Show of Talent Displayed at Elementary P. T. A. Program

A crowded house greeted the presentation of the Fathers' Night program given by the Torrance Elementary Parent Teachers Association at the elementary school auditorium Tuesday evening.

Judge Samuel Blake, who presides over the juvenile branch of the Superior Court, Los Angeles, was the speaker of the evening.

The complete program, which was highly entertaining and well done by the youthful performers, was as follows:

Call to Order.  
Business session, Mrs. O. E. Hall, presiding.

School orchestra, conducted by Mrs. Husted, playing "Teamwork March" and "Little Wonder Nocturne."

Kindergarten band, directed by Mrs. Holland, playing "La Carmine." Song, "Japanese Maiden." Mrs. Young in charge.

Drill, Japanese Pantomime, Miss Henderson in charge, group including Georgina Tiffany, Patty Post, Lucille Jackson, Carmen Torres, Barbara Hall, Marian Spehger, Dorothy Jean Craig, Virginia Brandon, Eileen Wood, Virginia Adcock, Lois Lach, Betty Irwin.

Clown dance, Miss Henderson in charge, group including Betty Wright, Inez Nicoletti, Loren Long, Ruth Norman, Irene Wilkes, Ada Briggs, Peggy Olson, Phyllis Ordway, Gladys Emery, Martha Greig.

Irish hit, Miss Henderson in charge, by Lois Zanon, Virginia Crossell, Grace Lane, Doris Kresse, Marjorie Warthan, Marcella Crook. Awarding of door prize, Mrs. O. E. Hall in charge.

Boys' minstrel show, Mrs. Young in charge; Mrs. Sweet, pianist; Harry Bell, interlocutor; Lee Burns, Wallace West, Maynard Kissinger, Reggie Trenton, Jack Kent, Jim McMullen, end men; John McDonald, Ross Nelson, Benny Smith, Orval Smith, Bobby Klink, William Stewart, Carl Andrews, Joe Miller, Harold Maasi, Elree Waugh, Frank Carr, Clyde Crawford, chorus.

Song, "Come On Down South" by Bobby Tolson, Billy Andrus, Sherwood Barkdull, Walter Marek, Tap dance, Glen Allen Price. Reading, "Take a 'Tata' n' Wait," Charles Schultz. Clarinet solo, "Old Zip, Coon," Allanson Mason.

Harmonica duet, Donald Hyde, Weston Leech.

Quartette, "Sleepy Time Down South," Maynard Kissinger, Harry Bell, David Powell, Norman Hudson.

Solo, "Tomorrow Is Another Day," Norman Hudson.

Prize fight, Donald Hyde and Norman Hudson; Weston Leech, referee.

Song, "Uncle Ned," Bobby Tolson.

Finals, Billy Andrus and entire chorus.

Address by Hon. Samuel Blake, Judge of the Superior Court, Los Angeles.

## Three Youngsters Yield To Urge Of Spring Wanderlust

Filled with the urge to "go places and see things" that comes with the first balmy days of spring, three members of the younger generation in Torrance left their homes here over the week-end, without the knowledge and consent of their elders. Two of the young wanderers found life away from home not so desirable as fancy had pictured it and returned within 48 hours. The other, a 13-year-old girl, Dorothy Sheen, residing at House 14, El Prado court, left home some time Sunday, March 6, according to the police reports. She was about 5 feet 4 inches tall with blonde hair, blue eyes, weight about 120 pounds, was wearing a black dress with ecru lace trim, black jacket trimmed with white fur and black shoes.

Los Angeles and Long Beach police were notified to watch for the girl, who, her mother believes, is going under an assumed name. A search was made for her in Los Angeles dance halls one evening according to Mrs. Sheen, Dorothy had left home before, about Christmas time, when she was gone five days.

## COUNCIL ASKS WATER RATES BE REDUCED FIFTY PERCENT

Complaint to Railroad Commission States Water Company Income Nearly Tripled Since Rates Were Set 10 Years Ago

A fifty per cent reduction in Torrance water rates will be asked of the State Railroad Commission in the formal complaint of the City of Torrance against the reasonableness of the present rates charged by the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company, according to City Attorney Donald Findley. The city council at its meeting last week instructed Findley to file the complaint demanding a reduction in rates. The data to be included in the complaint has been prepared and the formal application for a hearing will be filed with the Railroad Commission within a week, Findley told the Herald yesterday.

Present water rates were established by the Railroad Commission in March, 1922, when the water company had only 440 domestic consumers, 30 irrigation customers and 11 industrial consumers. At that time, the annual income of the water company was approximately \$32,273.

At the present time, the local water company has approximately 1500 consumers and since 1925 its operating revenue has been in excess of \$65,000 annually and in some years it has enjoyed as high as \$95,000 annual income, Findley stated.

When the present rates were established in 1922, the Railroad Commission allowed 8 per cent profit on an original cost of \$145,900. The historical cost of the plant at present does not exceed \$150,000, the complaint claims.

## Junior Play To Be Presented Tomorrow Night

Advance Seat Sales Point to Large Audience at Annual Class Production

Reserved seats have been selling fast for the junior play to be given tomorrow evening, March 18, at the Torrance high school auditorium.

The cast has been practicing steadily for several weeks under the direction of Mrs. Lois Engle, and each one is letter perfect in his part.

The parts in this comedy drama, "Take My Advice," will be taken by LaGrèta Hall, as Ann Weaver; Irene Falk, the vamp; Carl Quayle, as Clement; Melvin Howard, as Bud Weaver; James Lanz, Kerry von Kind; Bill Parks, Mr. Weaver; Jean Wheaton, Mrs. Weaver, and Elmer Munson, Jim Thayer.

## Home Builders to Liquidate

Local Housing Corporation to Offer Houses and Lots at Sacrifice

Holdings of the Torrance Home Builders, Inc., are to be sold and the corporation liquidated, according to action taken by stockholders at a special meeting held Monday evening.

A liquidating committee was appointed, consisting of Sam Levy, chairman; Harry Dolley, Dr. J. S. Lancaster, J. W. Post, J. R. Jensen and A. Gourcier.

The corporation owns five lots on Cedar avenue, one lot on Madrid, one lot on Annapolis, and two houses on Beech avenue, all of which are offered at liquidation prices, according to Sam Levy. The 33 stockholders in the company are asked to assist in finding buyers for the company's properties and to refer them to Mr. Levy for prices and terms.

Tom Watson and Sam Levy were elected directors at this week's meeting. Harry Dolley, vice-president, presided.

The company was organized several years ago in order to relieve the housing shortage in this city, at which time 31 shares were sold at \$100 each.

## Elderly Couple Are Joined In Marriage

Judge John Dennis officiated Wednesday afternoon at the marriage of Peter F. Brooks and Ida M. Fellows, both of whom reside on the rural route No. 1 out of Torrance. The groom gave his age as 67 while the bride admitted 71. It was Brooks' fourth matrimonial venture, the bride's third. Witnesses to the ceremony were Marie Phillips and Mrs. Mary A. Weston of Anaheim.

## CHURCHES TO GREET BRIGHT EASTER MORN

Three Communities Combine In Annual Service In Palos Verdes Hills

Plans for Easter sunrise services in the Palos Verdes foothills south of Lomita, are being carefully prepared by the various organizations which will take part.

At 5:30 a. m. on Sunday, March 27, thousands of worshippers will gather at the foot of Narbonne avenue, guided there by local troops of Boy Scouts, who will direct traffic.

Torrance churches which are joining in the services are the First Baptist church, Central Evangelical, First Methodist and Christian church, The Harbor City Presbyterian, the Community Evangelical and the Dorachah churches of Lomita are active in promoting the observance which is one of the annual affairs of the community.

Rev. Thomas Gries, pastor of the Methodist church of Long Beach, has been invited to deliver the message. Special music will be supplied by the Calvary church.

TURN TO STORY 2

Page 6

## One Week Left

Only one week left to register for the May 3 primaries.

Torrance residents who expect to cast a ballot in this important election who have not already made their statements to the registrar should do so at once. Mrs. Laura Anderson is at her post in the entrance of the Masonic temple building every day to receive registrations. She will call at your home or place of business, if it is not possible or convenient for you to see her at the downtown location. She may be found in the evening at her home, 1510 Engracia avenue. Her telephone is 330-W.

Mrs. Anderson reminds the voters that the books close at midnight, March 24. All those who intend to vote May 3 must be enrolled. All those who, having registered, have since changed their place of residence even though it is only next door or across the street, MUST RE-REGISTER. This is imperative.

Edna K. Lynne, deputy registrar in Lomita, announces to the voters that she may be found at her home, 2383 253rd street, daily between 10 a. m. and every evening after 7 o'clock, except Saturday, March 19, and Thursday, March 24, when she will be at the postoffice lobby in Lomita from 7 to 9 p. m. Voters who are unable to see her at either of these locations may leave their names and addresses at any place of business in Lomita, where she will pick them up and call on the voters at their own homes.